

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 53, 55, 57 and 59 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1-7, 9-52, 54, 56, 58 and 60 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communication network, the network comprising a client server device connected to at least one client station, and at least one destination server device connected to at least one destination station wherein, when the client station receives a request to transfer a digital signal intended for the at least one destination station, the client server device:

- obtains a first encryption key further to the transfer request;
- obtains the digital signal;
- encodes said digital signal with the first encryption key obtained;
- encodes the first encryption key with a second encryption key associated with the destination server device connected to the corresponding destination station;
- transfers the encoded digital signal to said destination server device; and
- transfers the encoded first encryption key to said destination server device.

2. (Currently Amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein the client server device also determines, from the transfer request, whether information representing at least one restriction on use by a destination station exists and, if so, encodes the information representing at least one restriction with the second key associated with the destination server device of the corresponding destination station and transfers the encoded information to the destination server device.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein the said digital signal is stored in advance on the client server.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer of the encoded signal to ~~the~~ said destination station is made ~~by means of~~ via a centralized server device connected to the network.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first key is a secret key and the second key is a public key associated with the destination server device.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to Claim 5, wherein the public key is obtained by reading a storage means of the client server device or by generating a request on the communication network to the centralized server device or the destination server device.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to Claim 2, wherein the information representing at least one restriction forms part of the group of restrictions on the duration of authorization for the display of the at least one digital signal by the destination station, the storage of the at least one digital signal by the destination station and the printing of the at least one digital signal by the destination station.

8. (Original) A method of transferring at least one first digital signal representing media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network, the network comprising a client server device, and at least one destination server device connected to at least one destination station, wherein, when the client server device transfers the at least one digital signal encoded with the first encryption key to the at least one destination server device connected to the at least one destination terminal, the destination server device:

- stores the signal transmitted by the client server device;
- obtains the first encryption key by decoding, by means of a second key, a message received from the client server device,
- decodes the stored digital signal by means of the first encryption key, and
- transfers at least one second decoded digital signal representing a sub-part of the first digital signal representing media content data to at least one destination station.

9. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to Claim 8, wherein the first digital signal representing media content data is at a first resolution and in that the destination server device also determines the whether information representing at least one restriction associated with at least one destination station has been transferred by the client server device and, if so, generates the second decoded digital signal at a resolution lower than the first resolution of the first digital signal representing media content data.

10. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to Claim 9, wherein the destination server device also determines whether information representing the at least one restriction has been transferred by the client server device and, in the negative, the destination server device transfers the second digital signal representing the whole of the first digital signal.

11. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to Claim 8, wherein, on reception of a request to transfer the signal transmitted by the client server device to another destination station not associated with the destination server device, the destination server device obtains a third key associated with the destination server device associated with the other destination station, encodes the first key with the third key and transfers the first digital signal encoded with the first key and the first key encoded with the third key.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for the transfer of at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communication network between a client module and at least one destination module, the modules being connected to the network, wherein if it receives a request to transfer the digital signal to at least one destination module, the client module:

- obtains the digital signal
- obtains a first encryption key;
- encodes the digital signal with the first encryption key;
- obtains information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, for which the digital signal is intended to be sent;
- encodes the first encryption key and the use restriction information with a second encryption key associated with destination module;
- transfers the encoded digital signal to the destination module; and
- transfers the first encryption key and the use restriction information encoded with the second encryption key to the destination module.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 12, wherein the destination module comprises a destination server connected to the network and at least one destination client connected to the destination server.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 13, wherein the second encryption key is associated with the destination server.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction use information comprises information for the

restriction on the use of the digital signal by the at least one destination client, for which the digital signal is intended.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 12, wherein the use restriction information comprises the specification of rights for copying or storing or reproducing or printing the at least one digital signal, the time validity of said rights, the specification of the resolution under which the digital signal should be accessed.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 12, wherein the first key is a secret key, and the second key is a public key associated with the destination module.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 17, wherein the public key is obtained by reading ~~by reading~~-storage means of the client module or by generating a request on the communication network to a centralized server or to the destination module.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 12, wherein the use restriction information comprises a request for the destination module to transfer the digital signal encoded with the first key to at least a second destination module.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for the transfer of at least one first digital signal representing digital media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network between a client module and at least one destination module, the

modules being connected to the network, wherein, when the client module transfers the encoded first digital signal to the destination module, the destination module:

- stores the first digital signal encoded with the first key;
- obtains the first key and information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, by decoding a message transmitted by the client module, with a second key associated with the destination module; and
- decodes the stored first digital signal with the first key, taking into account at least part of the use restriction information, into a second digital signal representing at least part of the first digital signal.

21. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 20, wherein the destination module comprises a destination server connected to the network and at least one destination client connected to the destination server.

22. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 21, wherein at least part of the second digital signal is transferred to at least one of the destination stations.

23. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 21, wherein the second key is associated with the destination server.

24. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 21, wherein the restriction use information comprises information for the restriction on the use of the first digital signal by the at least one destination client, for which the digital signal is intended.

25. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 20, wherein the use restriction information comprises the specification of rights for copying or storing or reproducing or printing the at least one digital signal, the time validity of said rights, the specification of the resolution under which the digital signal should be accessed.

26. (Currently Amended) The A-method for the transfer of at least one digital signal according to Claim 20, wherein upon reception of a request to transfer the first digital signal encoded with the first key to at least one second destination module, the destination module:

- obtains a third key associated with the at least one second destination module;
- encodes the first key and information for the restriction on the use of the at least one second destination module, with the third key;
- transfers the first digital signal encoded with the first key to the destination module;
- transfers the first key and use restriction information encoded with the third key to the at least one second destination module.

27. (Currently Amended) A client server device for transferring at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communication network, the network comprising a the client server device connected to at least one client station, at least one destination server device connected to at least one destination station wherein, the client station receiving a request to transfer a digital signal intended for at least one destination station, the client server device comprises:

- means for obtaining a first encryption key further to the transfer request;
- means for obtaining the digital signal;
- means for encoding said digital signal with the first encryption key obtained;

- means for encoding the first encryption key with a second encryption key associated with the destination server device connected to the corresponding destination station;
- means for transferring the encoded digital signal to said destination server device; and
- means for transferring the encoded first encryption key to said destination server device.

28. (Currently Amended) The A-device according to Claim 27, wherein the client server device also comprises means for determining, from the transfer request, whether information representing at least one restriction on use by a destination station exists and means for encoding the information representing at least one restriction with the second key associated with the destination server device of the corresponding destination station and means for transferring the encoded information to the destination server device.

29. (Currently Amended) The A-device according to Claim 27, wherein the device also comprises means for storing said digital signal.

30. (Currently Amended) The A-device according to Claim 27, wherein the transfer of the encoded signal to ~~the~~ said destination station is made ~~by means of~~ via a centralized server device connected to the network.

31. (Currently Amended) The A-device according to Claim 27, wherein the first key is a secret key and the second key is a public key associated with the destination server device.

32. (Currently Amended) The A-device according to Claim 31, wherein the means for obtaining the ~~pubic~~ public key is adapted to obtain the key by reading a storage means of the

client server device or by generating a request on the communication network to the centralized server device or the destination server device.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The A-~~The device according to Claim 28, wherein the information representing at least one restriction forms part of the group of restrictions on the duration of authorization for the display of the at least one digital signal by the destination station, the storage of the at least one digital signal by the destination station and the printing of the at least one digital signal by the destination station.

34. (Currently Amended) A destination server device for transferring at least one first digital signal representing media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network, the network comprising a client server device, and ~~at least one the~~ destination server device connected to at least one destination station, wherein, the client server device transferring the at least one digital signal encoded with the first encryption key to the at least one destination server device connected to the at least one destination terminal, the destination server device comprises:

- means for storing the signal transmitted by the client server device;
- means for obtaining the first encryption key by decoding, by means of a second key, a message received from the client server device,
- means for decoding the stored digital signal by means of the first encryption key, and
- means for transferring at least one second decoded digital signal representing a sub-part of the first digital signal representing media content data to at least one destination station.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The destination server device according to Claim 34, wherein the first digital signal representing media content data is at a first resolution and in that the destination server device also comprises means for determining whether information

representing at least one restriction associated with at least one destination station has been transferred by the client server device and means for generating the second decoded digital signal at a resolution lower than the first resolution of the first digital signal representing media content data.

36. (Currently Amended) A The destination server device according to Claim 35, wherein the destination server device also comprises means for determining whether information representing the at least one restriction has been transferred by the client server device and means for transferring the second digital signal representing the whole of the first digital signal.

37. (Currently Amended) A client device for transferring at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communication network between the client device and at least one destination device, the client device storing a client module and the at least one destination device storing at least one destination module, the modules being configured to communicate on ~~connected~~ to the network, wherein the client module receiving a request to transfer the digital signal to at least one destination module, the client module comprises:

- means for obtaining the digital signal;
- means for obtaining a first encryption key;
- means for encoding the digital signal with the first encryption key;
- means for obtaining information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, for which the digital signal is intended to be sent;
- means for encoding the first encryption key and the use restriction information with a second encryption key associated with the destination module;
- means for transferring the encoded digital signal to the destination module;
- means for transferring the first encryption key and the use restriction information encoded with the second encryption key to the destination module.

38. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 37, wherein the destination module ~~comprises a~~ comprises ~~is stored on~~ a destination server connected to the network and at least one destination client connected to the destination server.

39. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 38, wherein the second encryption key is associated with the destination server.

40. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 38, wherein the restriction use information comprises information for the restriction on the used of the digital signal by the at least one destination client, for which the digital signal is intended.

41. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 37, wherein the use restriction information comprises the specification of rights for copying or storing or reproducing or printing the at least one digital signal, the time validity of said rights, and the specification of the resolution under which the digital signal should be accessed.

42. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 37, wherein the first key is a secret key, and the second key is a public key associated with the destination module.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 42, wherein the means for obtaining the public key is adapted to obtain the key by reading storage means of the client module or by generating a request on the communication network to a centralized server or to the destination module.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 37, wherein the use restriction information comprises a request for the destination module to transfer the digital signal encoded with the first key to at least one second destination module.

45. (Currently Amended) A destination device for transferring at least one first digital signal representing digital media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network between a client device storing a client module and the destination device storing at least one destination module, the modules being configured to communicate over ~~connected to~~ the network, wherein, the client module transferring the encoded first digital signal to the destination module, the destination module comprises:

- means for storing the first digital signal encoded with the first key;
- means for obtaining the first key and information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, by decoding a message transmitted by the client module, with a second key associated with the destination module;
- means for decoding the stored first digital signal with the first key, taking into account at least part of the use restriction information, into a second digital signal representing at least part of the first digital signal.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 45, wherein the destination ~~module comprises~~ device is a destination server

connected to the network and at least one destination ~~client~~ station is connected to the destination server.

47. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 46, wherein at least part of the second digital signal is transferred to at least one ~~to~~ of the destination stations.

48. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 46, wherein the second key is associated with the destination server.

49. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 46, wherein the restriction use information comprises information for the restriction on the use of the first digital signal by the at least one destination ~~client~~ station, for which the digital signal is intended.

50. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 45, wherein the use restriction information comprises the specification of rights for copying or storing or reproducing or printing the at least one digital signal, the time validity of said rights, and the specification of the resolution under which the digital signal should be accessed.

51. (Currently Amended) The A-device for transferring at least one digital signal according to Claim 45, wherein the destination module receiving a request to transfer the first digital signal encoded with the first key to at least one second destination module, the destination module comprises:

- means for obtaining a third key associated with the at least one second destination module;
- means for encoding the first key and information for the restriction on the use of the at least one second destination module, with the third key;
- means for transferring the first digital signal encoded with the first key to the destination module;
- means for transferring the first key and use restriction information encoded with the third key to the at least one second destination module.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~An information carrier, possibly totally or partially removable, which~~ A- computer-readable storage medium that can be read by a computer system ~~client server device, wherein it contains~~ containing instructions of a computer program for implementing ~~the transfer a method according to Claim 1 of transferring at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communications network, the network comprising the client server device connected to at least one client station, and at least one destination server device connected to at least one destination station, wherein the client station receives a request to transfer a digital signal intended for at last one destination station, the method comprising:~~

- obtaining a first encryption key further to a transfer request;
- obtaining the digital signal;
- encoding said digital signal with the first encryption key obtained;
- encoding the first encryption key with a second encryption key associated with the destination server device connected to the corresponding destination station;
- transferring the encoded digital signal to said destination server device; and
- transferring the encoded first encryption key to said destination server device.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) ~~An information carrier, possibly totally or partially removable, which~~ A computer-readable storage medium that can be read by a computer system, characterized in that it contains instructions of a computer program for implementing a transfer method according to Claim 8 ~~destination server device, containing instructions of a computer program for implementing a method of transferring at least one first digital signal representing media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network, the network comprising a client server device, and the destination server device connected to at least one destination station, wherein, when the client server device transfers the at least one digital signal encoded with the first encryption key to the destination server device connected to the at least one destination terminal, the method comprising:~~

- ~~- storing the signal transmitted by the client server device;~~
- ~~- obtaining the first encryption key by decoding, by means of a second key, a message received from the client server device,~~
- ~~- decoding the stored digital signal by means of the first encryption key, and~~
- ~~- transferring at least one second decoded digital signal representing a sub-part of the first digital signal representing media content data to at least one destination station.~~

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) ~~An information carrier, possibly totally or partially removable, which can be read by a computer system, characterized in that it contains instructions of a computer program for implementing a transfer method according to Claim 12~~ A computer-readable storage medium storing a client module for use in a method for the transfer of at least one digital signal representing media content data in a communication network between a client

device storing the client module and a destination device storing a least one destination module, the modules being configured to communication on the network, wherein if it receives a request to transfer the digital signal to the at least one destination module, the client module:

- obtains the digital signal;
- obtains a first encryption key;
- encodes the digital signal with the first encryption key;
- obtains information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, for which the digital signal is intended to be sent;
- encodes the first encryption key and the use restriction information with a second encryption key associated with destination module;
- transfers the encoded digital signal to the destination module; and
- transfers the first encryption key and the use restriction information encoded with the second encryption key to the destination module.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) ~~An information carrier, possibly totally or partially removable, which can be read by a computer system, characterized in that it contains instructions of a computer program for implementing a transfer method according to Claim 20~~A computer-readable storage medium storing a destination module for use in a method for the transfer of at least one first digital signal representing digital media content data and which has been encoded using a first encryption key, in a communication network between a client device storing a module and a destination device storing a destination module, the modules being configured to communication on the network, wherein, when the client module transfers the encoded first digital signal to the destination module, the destination module:

- stores the first digital signal encoded with the first key;

- obtains the first key and information for the restriction on the use of the digital signal by the destination module, by decoding a message transmitted by the client module, with a second key associated with the destination module; and

- decodes the stored first digital signal with the first key, taking into account at least part of the use restriction information, into a second digital signal representing at least part of the first digital signal.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The device according to Claim 34, wherein, the destination server device may receive a request to transfer the signal transmitted by the client server device to another destination station not associated with the destination server device, and the destination server device comprises means for obtaining a third key associated with the destination server device associated with the other destination station, means for encoding the first key with the third key, and means for transferring the first digital signal encoded with the first key and first key encoded with the third key.